In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-9 as follows:

This patent application is related to co-pending U.S. patent application 09/428,359, filed October 28, 1999, which is a division of co-pending application 09/185,380, filed November 3, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,549,638). A PCT counterpart of the '380 application has been published as WIPO publication WO0026749. This patent application is also related to-pending application 09/465,418, filed December 16, 1999, which claims priority benefit to provisional application 60/112,955, filed December 18, 1998.

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 10-12 as follows:

The subject matter of the present application is related to that disclosed in US Patent 5,862,260, and in co-pending application 09/503,881, filed February 14, 2000 (Now U.S. Patent No. 6,614,914); which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 8-12 as follows:

Several particular watermarking techniques have been developed. The reader is presumed to be familiar with the literature in this field. Particular techniques for embedding and detecting imperceptible watermarks in media signals are detailed in the assignee's co-pending application serial number 09/503,881 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,614,914) and US Patent 5,862,260, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 19-27 as follows:

Once triggered, detection stages in the detection module attempt to detect a watermark in each of the blocks, and to determine its orientation. If one is identified in a block, the detector module invokes a message reader module 110 to perform a read operation using the orientation parameters to align image data and extracting an auxiliary message embedded in the watermark. The specific details of the detection and read operations depend on the specifics of the watermark algorithm and watermark signal protocol.[:] Some examples of

these functions are set forth in detail in US Patent No. 5,862,260, and in co-pending application 09/503,881, filed February 14, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,614,914); which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 21, to page 9, line 3 as follows:

When one of the band FIFOs is filled with new image data, a perceptual analyzer 304 analyzes the pixel data in the block to compute a perceptual mask. In one implementation, this perceptual mask is an array of watermark gain control values used to modulate the strength of corresponding samples in an image watermark signal. Each gain control value corresponds to an element or group of neighboring elements in the spatial domain of a watermark signal. The gain control values are computed as a function of the corresponding samples in the host image being watermarked. In particular, they are a function of the local signal activity (e.g., local contrast and image signal edge measurements). For more information about computing a perceptual mask, see US Patent Applications [~~09/596,698~~] 09/596,658, filed on June 19, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,631,198), and entitled Perceptual Modeling of Media Signals Based on Local Contrast and Directional Edges; and 09/503,881, filed February 14, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,614,914).

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, line 26 to page 16, line 13 as follows:

The metadata may be stored in a database in the imaging device or in another device accessible to the imaging device or system via a wire or wireless network connection (wireless phone network, Internet, LAN, etc.). The watermark message may include an address, index, or URL. The decoder may trigger a programmatic process to fetch related information or program instructions from that address, index, or URL. For example, the decoder may fetch a web page stored at the URL or provide the URL to another application program, such as an Internet browser, for fetching and displaying a web page at the URL. Alternatively, the decoder may send the index to a database, which in turn, provides corresponding information

or instructions back to the decoder. The database record matching the index may include yet another reference to information or instructions, such as a URL to a related web site. The database (e.g., web server) may either return this information to the decoder or route it to another device (e.g., web server), which in turn returns related information or instructions to the decoder (e.g., computer or imaging device where streaming mode decoder is executing). For related information on such applications for using watermarks to link watermarked content to information or actions, see US Patent No. 5,841,978 and US application nos. 09/571,422; 09/563,664 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,505,160); and 09/574,726.